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Shelton State Courier

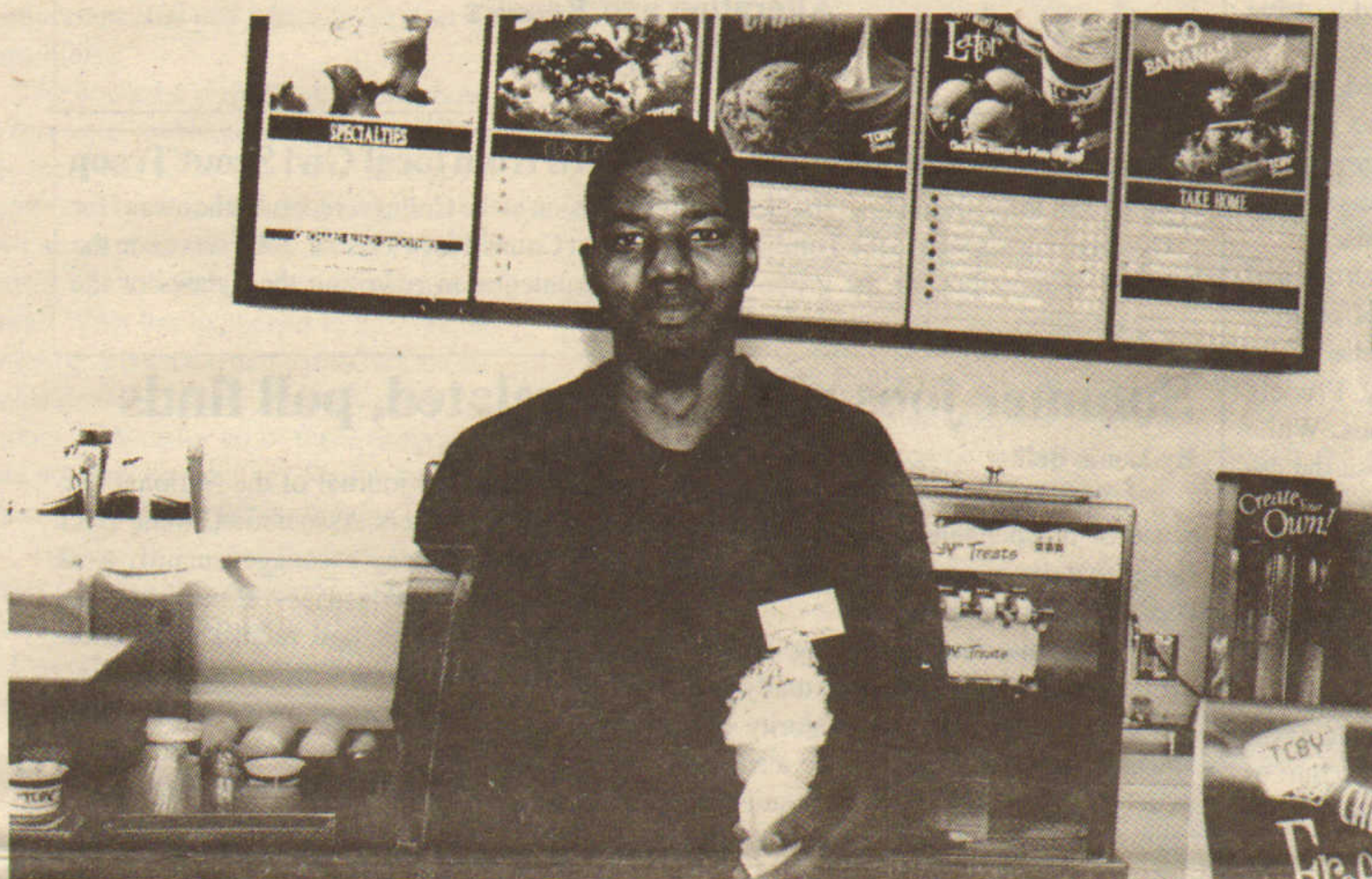
—Campus Newspaper—

New Series Vol. 2, Number 9

Shelton State Community College

June 25, 1998-July 29, 1998

Summer Sweat?



Student Brian Taggart has upped his hours to 40 a week at TCBY-Blimpie's near campus. Taggart has found a way to both keep cool and make extra bucks during the hot summer months

By James A. Crawford II
and Linda Garner

If you're willing to drive a little, one of the best new summer jobs can be found just inside of Bessemer, a suburb of Birmingham.

Visionland, the new entertainment park located just above Tannehill, on I-59/20 north, heading toward Birmingham, now employs students in various seasonal jobs.

"We have about 400 students right now, that we have placed in seasonal positions," says Gloria Lewis, of the Human Relations Department at Visionland.

According to Lewis, the student work base is from all over the area, not just Bessemer. The average pay is minimum wage and above depending on the job.

Students take summer jobs or work full-time at their normally part-time jobs to give themselves a little change of pace or to earn a little extra money for the coming semester. Maybe even to have a little money for a last minute vacation.

The usual student summer jobs are at grocery stores, restaurants and retail outlets, such as the malls. Tuscaloosa and the surrounding area does, however, have many more opportunities for students

looking for some extra cash, that might even involve a little fun.

If outside work appeals to you, a good job to have is with the State of Alabama.

Jason Akins, has been with the State, in the maintenance department, for five years now. While in school he is pursuing a business degree, at work he gets to enjoy learning and working in several occupations, as well as travel and see a little of the State.

"We do a wide variety of things, such as maintenance, elec-

Summer cont'd on pg. 3

Alumnus-benefactor can now take life easier

By Susan Jones

A Shelton student walking on the ground floor of the west wing of the college cannot help but notice one name each day: Roland Pugh.

The name is emblazoned across an archway in two-foot-high letters, announcing the existence of the "Roland Pugh Technologies Division" of the college.

The name is surely familiar—not only from daily encounters at the college, but familiar from around town. Still for many, especially the younger students, there has been a buzz: Who is this Pugh guy anyway?

For one thing, he was selected for Shelton's very first Alumni of the Year award in 1989.

When asked recently about

receiving the award, Pugh replied, "I appreciate the opportunity to be selected as the first Alumni from Shelton State and have that honor."

Born in Pickens County, Roland Pugh was raised in the Ashcraft Corners area until he was twelve years of age. His parents moved to Tuscaloosa County when he was ten, but Pugh remained behind to stay with his grandparents for the next two years.

In eighth grade, he joined his parents in Tuscaloosa and started attending Tuscaloosa County High. Then County High housed seventh through twelfth graders all in one building, and there were only about 150 students in his class.

Pugh cont'd on pg. 3



After a career of hard and successful work, Shelton grad and benefactor Roland Pugh tries to spend more time down on his farm below the college

Photo by Misty Holbrook

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Future Issues

The Courier looks forward to 2 more issues during the summer semester: July and August. Let us know what you would like to know about Shelton by calling the publisher at 391-2278.



Now hair's the problem... Bruce Smith of the Meadowbrook Barber Shop dropped in on barbering instructor Toni Love's class to show them the art of the hair piece. The class made their own molds after first getting a feel for the procedure

One day sleep was almost permanent

In the distance I could hear what sounded like a loud bang, but as yet I could not open my eyes. I could hear sounds all around me, but I didn't recognize any of them. I noticed at once that I wasn't breathing, and then someone started shaking me. My eyes opened to see what was left of the front of my truck just a couple of feet from me, and I then understood that I was lucky to be alive.

The accident had left me in a state of shock. I could feel the blood trickling down the side of my head, and I knew I was in trouble. The windshield was crumpled over in pieces and my left arm felt numb, but at least it would move. I turned to see a woman shaking me and saying something I couldn't yet understand; her speech seemed to be slurred.

As her words cleared up to where I could hear her shouting, "Are you all right?" I started to get out of the truck and noticed I was at the bottom of a hill surrounded by trees, with a stream of parts that were once my truck leading back to the highway.

I reached up to touch my head and cut my finger on the glass that was imbedded in my skull; a drop of blood stung as it touched my left eye. When I got to the top of the hill, a stranger gave me a ride back to my house. I made it almost in the door when I felt a burning sensation near my rib cage and I started to collapse. I made it over to the phone and called my sister to take me to the hospital.

The wreck had left me with a pulled diaphragm muscle that was inflamed, a permanently cracked sternum, a severe concussion and more cuts and bruises than I cared to hear about. Still, I was lucky nothing was broken, and that I was alive.

One evening just a few years ago,

while driving home from an employee's house I had fallen asleep at the wheel—the result of being awake for several days in a row. At the time I was a business owner and trying to run the business by myself. The result of this work overload was a real lack in the "small things" of life, such as sleep.

In the early morning hours before the wreck I had run a vehicle off the road. I was barely aware of the fact that they could be dead. Still, I continued to drive that day.

When an employee called in that evening, I went to his house to get the machine we used to clean floors with. It was on the way back that I had the accident. Just one short mile from my house.

People who go out and drink and then drive are ignorant of what effect they are about to have on someone else's life. Driving while extremely sleepy, I rudely discovered, was no less dangerous. While inebriated or exhausted, you lose the capacity to make decisions and react on time to what's happening around you. This places both you and other drivers in mortal danger. And the results can be horrifying.

I made it through my wreck with no broken bones, but the other results will haunt me for the rest of my life. I never found out if that family had gotten hurt or not. It's something I have to live with every day.

Be safe when you go out. If you're tired, stay home. Your job, your girlfriend, your schoolwork will be there when you wake up.

If you fall asleep while you are driving, you might not wake up at all.

James A. Crawford II

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Humanities chairman receives award from local Girl Scout Troop

Jim Jolly, the chair of the Humanities Division at the College, received the award for Outstanding Service to the Tombigbee Girl Scout Council for 1997-98. Jolly serves on the board of directors for the group and was instrumental in rewriting the bylaws of the organization.

Summer jobs not career related, poll finds

By Louis Bell

Working during the summer can bring a sense of independence. Students can feel relieved that they do not have to ask their parents constantly for money.

I was interested in finding out what percentage of Shelton students actually had summer jobs. I found that the majority of the 50 students surveyed did not have a summer job which they will cut back from or quit during the school year; however, a little over one-third (34%) did have a summer job.

Curious, about the types of summer jobs students were working at, I asked them if their job was relevant to their career goals.

A staggering 82% of the students answered that their job was not related to their future career. I then did some research on this perplexing result. In a May 1989 article of *PTA*

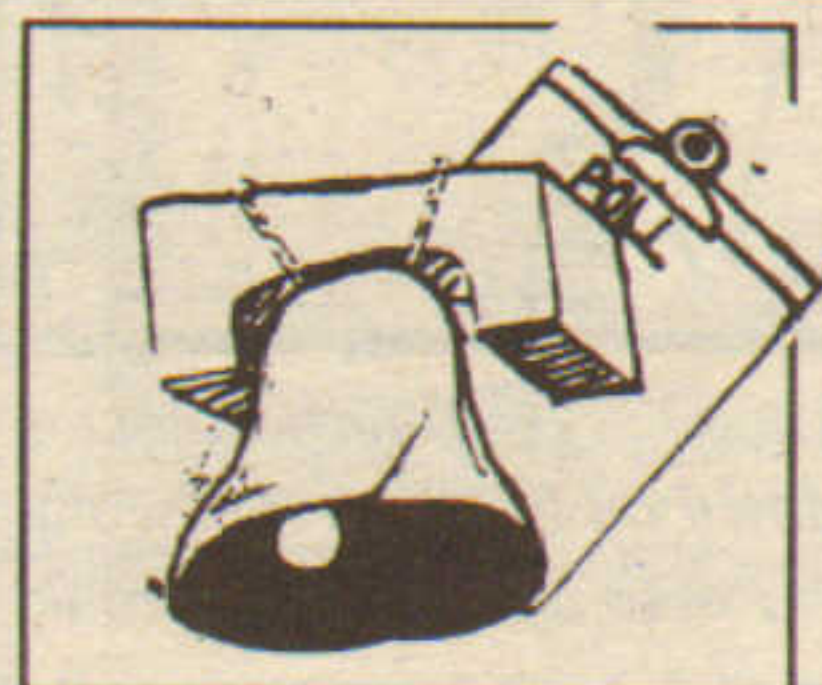
Today, the journal of the National Parents-Teachers Association, Irene Beck claims, "today's teenagers mainly work in service industries—restaurants, fast food services, and retail shops. These are usually jobs with no career tracks."

With minimum wage raised to \$5.15 per hour a few months ago, I wondered if the students were doing better financially. Most of the students (53%) were making \$5.50 per hour. The average amount of money students made per hour was \$6.01.

Finally, I wondered if these students who chose (or were forced to choose) work over play during the summer hated their work. Surprisingly, 94% of the students responded they were happy with their summer job.

The Bell Poll

By: Louis Bell



34%

of Shelton summer-term students have summer jobs—ones they will either cut back from or give up altogether during the regular academic year.

Is your summer job relevant to your career goals?

82%—No
18%—Yes

How much money do you make per hour at your summer job?

\$6.01—
average hourly wage

Are you happy with your summer job?

94%—Happy
6%—Unhappy

This newspaper is printed by
M&M Printing
in Aliceville, Ala. (800) 367-7891

Shelton State Courier

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The *Shelton State Courier* is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student

expression and all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper:

"The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

Pugh cont'd from pg. 1

While Pugh was in high school, he worked for two summers with Southern Natural Gas Company, a pipeline firm. Pugh married young, at the age of 18, right out of high school, and the next year his oldest son, Grady, was born. This was a difficult time for the Pugh family while Roland and his wife had two more children, Melanie and Andy, and struggled to make ends meet.

Directly after high school, Pugh began working regularly for Southern Natural Gas. His wife at the time was working also. After trying in vain to get ahead over the next two years, Pugh decided to enroll in the welding department at the Shelton State Technical College on 15th Street in Tuscaloosa.

He worked in an apprenticeship during the day doing piping and plumbing, all the while fitting

in three nights a week with welding class. In 1961, after finishing at Shelton State, Pugh started working full time doing pipe-fitting and welding.

In 1963, Pugh and his brother, Roy, started their own business as a partnership. By 1965 the company was growing so much that he bought out his brother's half of the business and his brother continued working for him. Also at this time Roland in-

corporated the business into Roland Pugh Construction Company, which

is now one of Tuscaloosa's most outstanding and successful businesses.

Shelton State President Thomas E. Umphrey said, "Roland Pugh is one of the most outstanding leaders we have in our community. His support of education and espe-

improve our state's education system and he often accepts leadership roles in these initiatives. We are fortunate to have a leader like him in Tuscaloosa."

Eventually after a lifetime of hard work and success, Pugh had to admit to himself his career had worked out fine—and maybe he could start taking life a bit easier. What did that realization feel like, he was recently asked.

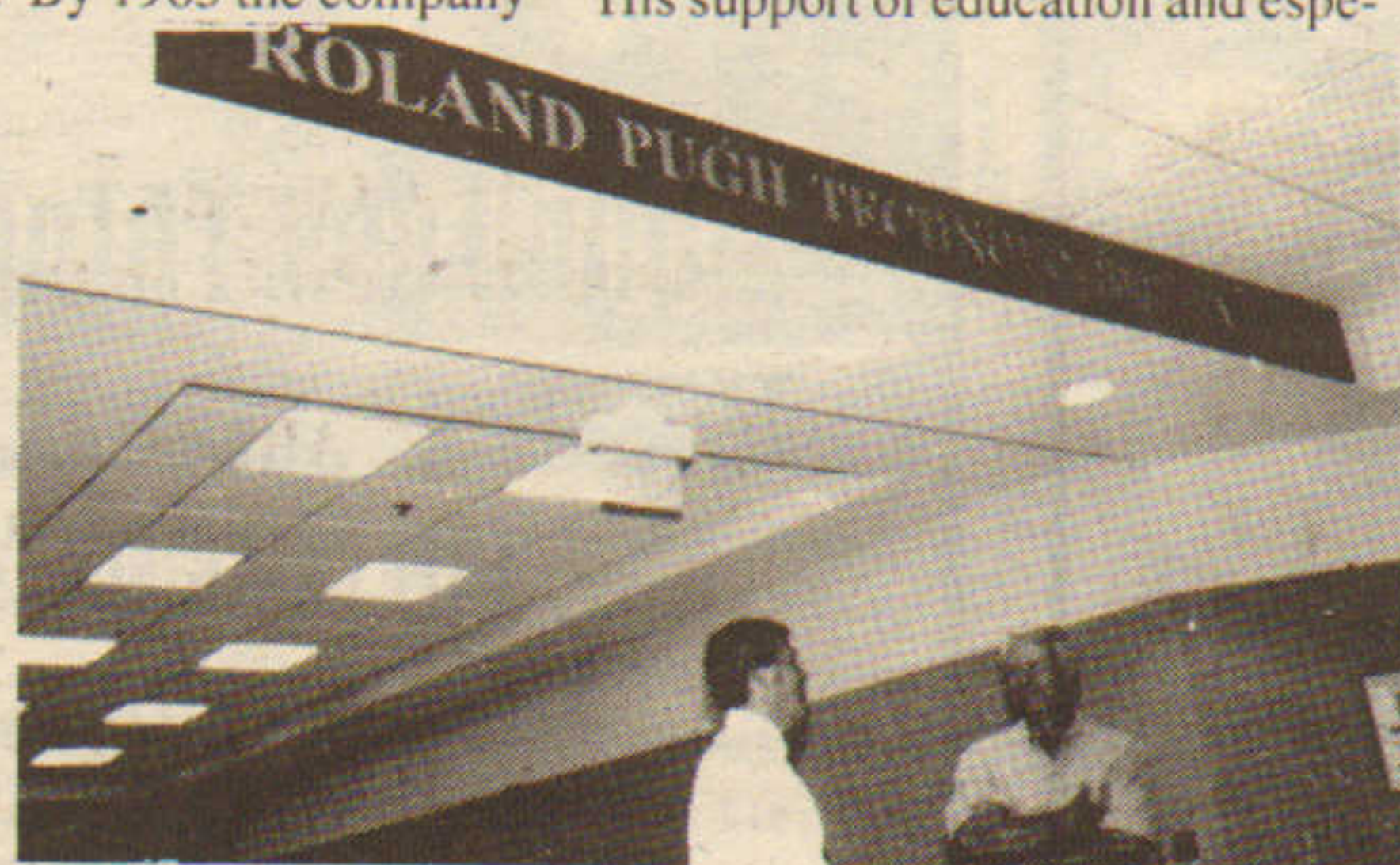
"Oh, that's hard to ever decide. You always think you may lose what you've got. I guess I got to feeling a little more secure only about five years ago. That's when I started turning more of the responsibility over to others."

He has even turned the presidency of the company over to an-

other. "I meet with him once a month on a formal basis. I have my office here, but I have semi-retired from the company."

Pugh has other interests. He enjoys the outdoors and has never contented himself to staying inside very much. He bought a "pretty nice farm" down south of town, just below Shelton State, on the river. He spends a lot of time down there. However, he is over in Northport on Hwy. 69 at his office practically every morning to do routine things such as returning phone calls and responding to letters.

He says that he tends to cut out fairly early in the day to "play a little golf and enjoy things." This attitude is a recent development for the hard-driving Pugh. "It takes a while to get to where you feel comfortable. You get to feeling guilty if you don't work hard every day, all



Roland Pugh recently dropped by the college and chatted with administrator Rick Rogers

cially Shelton State, is inspiring. Roland constantly seeks ways to

Summer cont'd from pg. 1

trical work, plumbing and whatever needs to be done," says Akins. Working for the State allows him to practice these skill in more areas than just Tuscaloosa.

"Our area is the 6th division, which means we work in not only Tuscaloosa but surrounding counties as well, such as Pickens, Shelby, Walker and several others," adds Akins.

If you'd rather work inside this summer, retail outlets are usually more than eager to interview students for summer help.

"We stress hiring students because we like to reflect the trends of the community and of course this is a college town," says Airfonzie Peterson, of the Tuscaloosa Wal-Mart.

With most of the University students going home for a few months, positions are now open all over town for those students still here.

"We draw from not just the University but from Shelton and other surrounding counties," adds Peterson.

A grocery store, although maybe not the glamorous job you always wanted, isn't a bad place to spend some summer time or maybe even your whole college career.

"We try and get most of our work force from high-schools and the local colleges. Most of the students stay here their entire college career. We're real flexible with hours and other things that affect students," says Glenn Harris, one of the managers at a local Winn-Dixie.

When asked what she liked most about working at Winn-Dixie Crystal Gerner replied, "I like the flexible hours and getting a check."

Some students are able to find a job that they like as much as the major they're pursuing.

"I really enjoy my job a lot.

Working with kids every day brings a lot of excitement to my life," says Natresa McKinney, who works at Tot World Day Care.

There are also the jobs out there, that a student may or may not can make a quick load of money at.

Vector, which has been in

business since 1949, promised, in a series of notices written on Shelton blackboards in May, \$11.15 an hour to students who wanted to work when its convenient to them, on any day they like.

Sound like a Summer dream job come true? The Courier learned

what it could about the opportunity. The firm looked to hire 30,000 students nationally. Candidates had to wear a business suit and undergo a

Pugh cont'd on pg. 6**Summer cont'd on pg. 7**

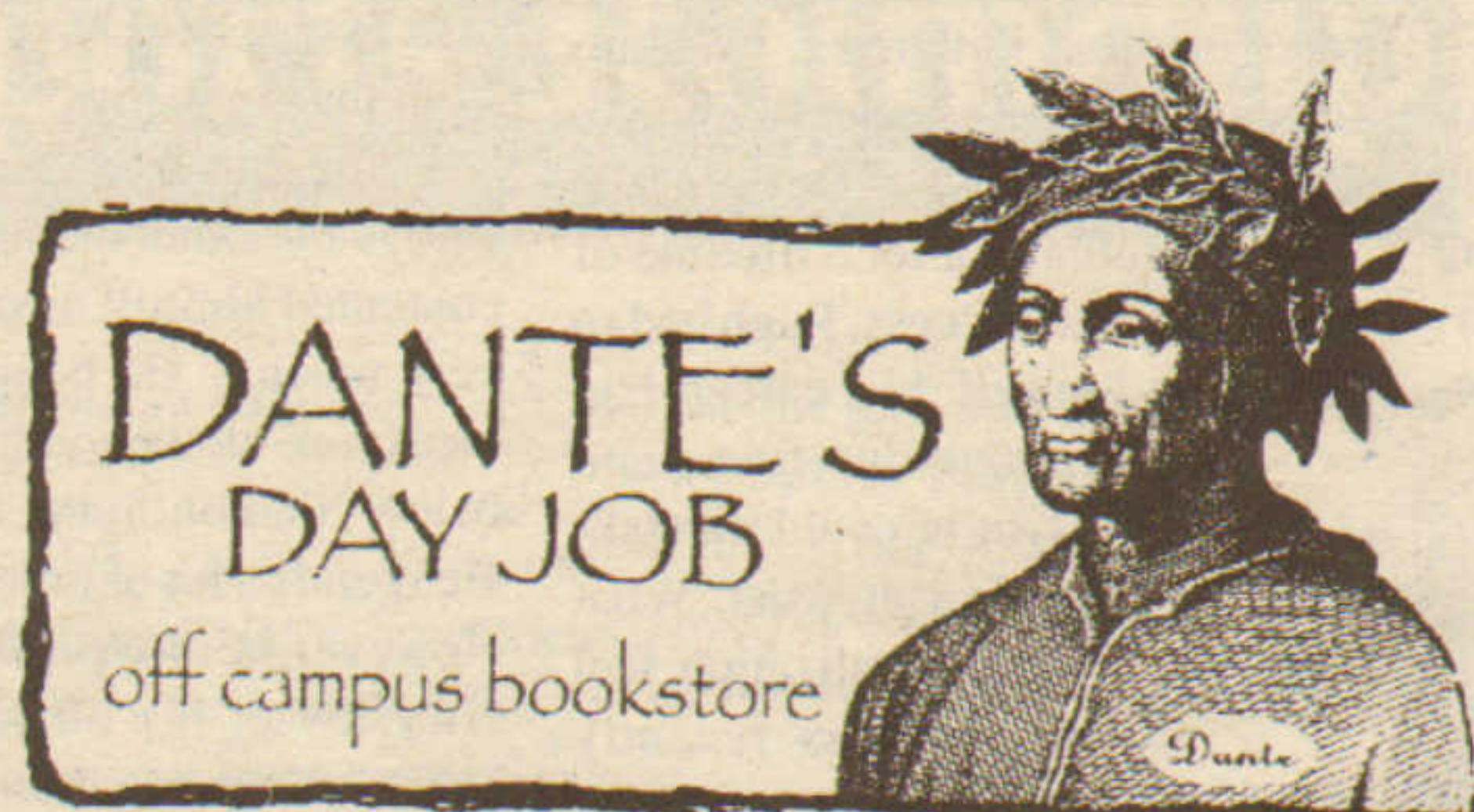
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Shelton State and Capitol School successfully complete the first year of pilot program

The end of the school year saw the end of an experiment in learning during which 14 students from the private Capitol School in Tuscaloosa attended college classes at Shelton. The students did very well in this specially supervised program.

For more information about the Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment Program, contact Barbara Rountree at Capitol School: 758-2828 or Evelyn Mettee at Shelton: 391-2455.

What do you like or dislike about holding down a summer job?

Interviewed by: Sarah Nagy Photos by: Misty Holbrook



Mark Daggert,
Massage Therapy,
Pensacola, Fla.
(Kozy's restaurant)

"It's slower than normal. Not a whole lot of people come in during the summer."



Jermal Ibrahim,
Business,
Eritrea, Africa
(Husain's Fashions)

"I work for my step-father. He owns a clothing store. It's not just a summer job; it's a permanent job."



Chris Lashinski,
Pre-Med,
Virginia
(O'Charley's)

"It's hard to go to work when all my friends are at the lake."



Crystal Gerner,
Respiratory Therapy,
Tuscaloosa
(Winn Dixie)

"The flexible hours and my check. I dislike that there's not enough time to study."



Natresa McKinney,
Biology,
Tuscaloosa
(Tot World Day Care)

"I really enjoy my job a lot. Working with kids every day brings a lot of excitement to my life."

BUSINESS BUC\$

A series of articles especially written for the Shelton community by business teachers and business leaders in the community

By Mark G. Sullivan, Executive V.P. and Chief Operating Officer of the Bank of Tuscaloosa

Ah, freedom. It is what we enjoy as Americans. But all too often some of us find that FINANCIAL freedom out of reach, or at best, difficult to obtain. Financial freedom is difficult to obtain, but can be achieved, if pursued early, consistently, and with discipline. Many of you are concluding work toward a degree that you anticipate will enable you to increase in your current and future income. The question is, "How will you manage your income now, and in the future?"

It is human nature for us to increase our spending as our incomes increase. This is not necessarily wrong. However, increasing spending by an amount which is equal to, or in some cases I've seen, in excess of the increase in income will not help you obtain the goal of financial freedom.

My father has a good friend who is retired and is living comfortably in Florida. He once told my father, "Self denial is one of the most valuable and important principals I have ever learned." And he is right. But the American way is for immediate self-gratification, which often results

in a future of financial burden.

Let me give you an example of the importance of self-denial.

Jerry and Amy are two recent college graduates who enter the job market. Each of them decides to borrow \$15,000 to purchase a car. Monthly payments on a four-year loan at 8.5% would come to approximately \$370. Now suppose four years down the road, when the cars are paid for, Jerry decides to trade in for a new car. If Jerry trades up and has to borrow \$15,000 more to finance the new vehicle, he will continue to have payments of \$370. Meanwhile, Amy decides to keep her car for another four years, and invest the amount of her car payment into a stock mutual fund.

At the end of this four-year period, Jerry has a four-year old car that is paid for. Amy has an eight year old car that is paid for and, assuming that her mutual fund investment earned 10%, she also has \$21,727.32 to use toward the purchase of a new car, or to invest in the real estate, additional stocks, etc. So, Amy's self denial toward purchasing that shiny new car led her to her having a significantly greater level of financial freedom than Jerry, who is now caught up in the perpetual car payment cycle.

Next issue: More on "Financial Freedom"

Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer ... *anywhere in the world!*



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Sports Roundup

By Paul Gonnering

Coming off the best record in its seven-year history, the Shelton women's basketball team is anticipating another successful season. With seven players returning, the Bucs will have experience, and, as evidenced by last season, top-notch coaching. **Tab Jefferson was honored with the Alabama Junior College Division II Coach of the Year award in 1997-98 after a complete turnaround to a 17-12 season.**

"Nesi Smith and Jaurra McCall will be the girls to go to this next season," said Jefferson. "With our team spirit and great defense, good free-throws and ball-control, I am very excited about our team's chances. We led the state in all three of those categories last season.

The Lady Buccaneers begin practice Oct. 1.

Coach Jim Collins and Shelton State's men's golf team won the state championship again this year and again played

for the national championship in legendary Pinehurst, N.C.

After missing out from a favorite's position last year during a rain-soaked tournament, the Buc-



Shelton's Tab Jefferson was named the Alabama Coach of the Year

cancers this year out-did themselves and came in fourth.

Returning to the squad next year are Morgan Holder and Mark Garhis. They will be joined by what

Collins called a talented freshman class.

"Our top recruit is Danny Germine out of Palm Beach, Fla.," said Collins. "Chad Collins of Enterprise, Drew Jons from Tennessee, and John Okuda from Japan have great potential. Matt Malone, Chris Jones, and Jason Dillard are solid players also."

The golf team has five tour-

state next season."

No decisions have been made in the search for a new head coach for the college's men's basketball program. "We are looking for a coach with at least five years' experience in high school or college. A decision should be made by Aug. 1," commented Dean of Students Humphrey Lee.

Mark Cornelius has stepped down as head coach and is headed to Birmingham to take a position closer to his family.

The Lady Buccaneers' softball team will be making the transition from slow pitch to fast in the upcoming season. Not only will batters face 50-60 mph pitches, but base runners can steal and hitters can bunt.

"Recruiting has gone well, and we have a lot of girls from the Tuscaloosa County area joining us in the fall," said Coach Bobby Ussery. "Finding good pitchers will be the key to success."

Coming from the local area are Deana Brackwell and Melissa Hall from Central High, Jill Stewart from Tuscaloosa County High, Beth Bowen from Hillcrest, and Tequilla Herring from Brookwood.

The Lady Buccaneers schedule will be announced in late August.

Pugh cont'd from pg. 3

day. So you have to learn—I did—to enjoy some of it. I still do. I still have to work at it. Sometimes I feel guilty if I'm not working."

Pugh's three children followed his path in that they all graduated from County High.

After that, Grady, his eldest son, earned a degree in engineering; Melanie got her degree in interior decorating; Andy, his youngest son, went to Shelton State for a while but chose not to finish a degree program.

Both of his sons work at and help run his company. Pugh's daughter married right out of college and moved to Atlanta. Melanie has three little girls. Andy has two girls, and Grady has one girl and two boys. That is a total of eight grandchildren for Pugh.

One strong admirer of the whole family is Assistant to the President at Shelton, Rick Rogers. "I have known Mr. Pugh and members of his family for 20 years. I have always admired his willingness to address issues within our educational system and provide leadership not only for Shelton State, but education in general. Technical education has no greater friend than

Pugh cont'd on pg. 7

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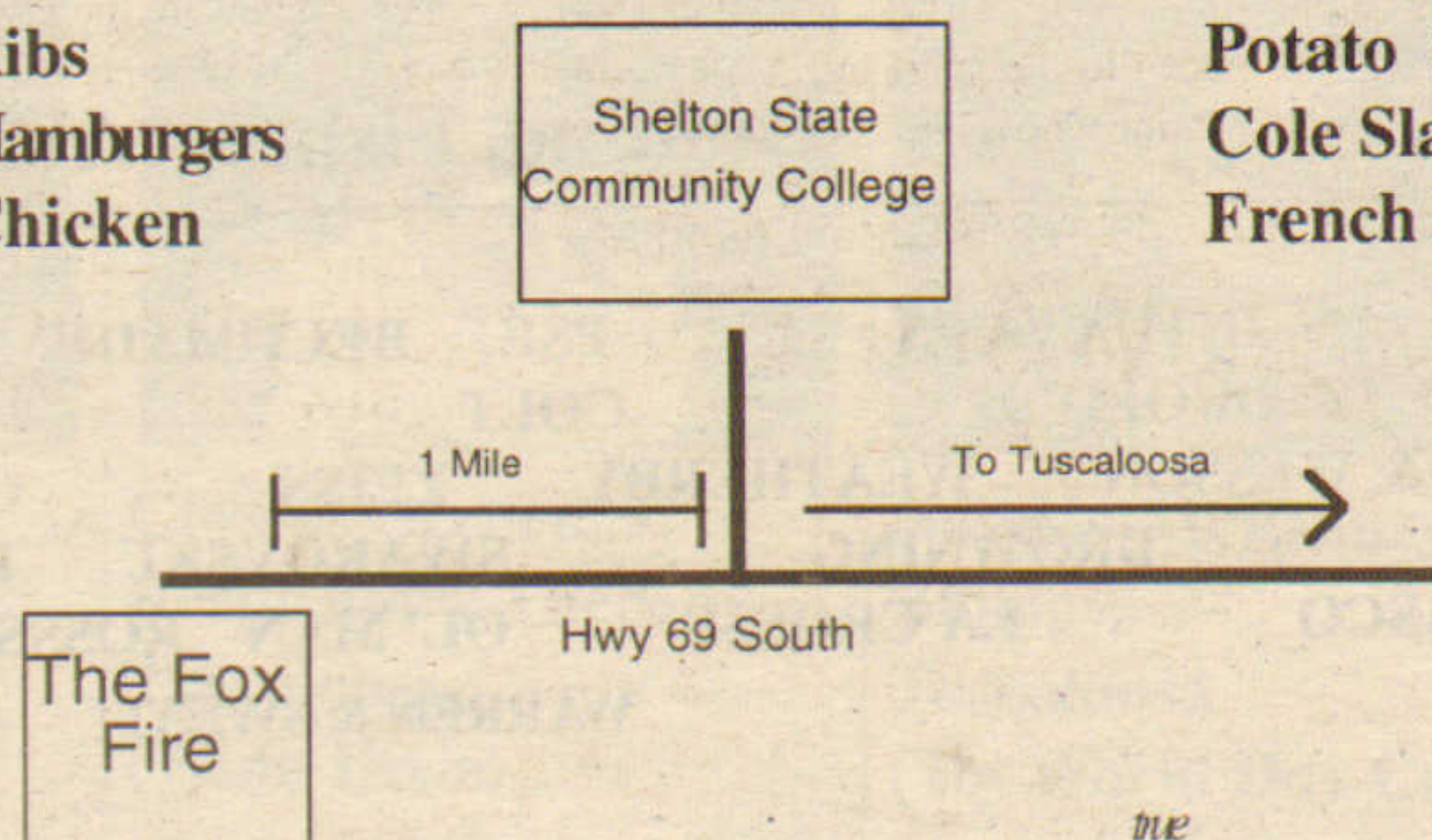
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Pugh cont'd from pg. 3

Mr. Pugh. We are proud that he is an alumnus of Shelton State."

One of the important roles Pugh has adopted is with the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. It meets seven times a year to approve all new courses for higher education. Shelton just got one approved six months ago in graphics. The Commission spends a lot of time reading materials that the universities and colleges send to them. They also help make decisions on which way education is going. Pugh considers this work very important, and one with a great deal of responsibility.

"We started a viability program about two years ago," explained Pugh. "Viability means there has to be a certain number of graduates each year in each program, and if it doesn't meet the standards of having 7.5 graduates in each program, then it's under scrutiny. What has happened in the state is that there have been too many programs, a lot of people think, to be able to justify spending the money it takes for all of these programs that are not very productive. So, the legislature passed an act that we are helping implement. That's one of the programs that the Alabama Commission on Higher Education does that is very important."

One other very important organization Pugh serves is for the Federal Reserve Board in Birmingham.

Pugh is also on the board of

Shelton student is one of the world's best archers

As an archer ranked as high as ninth in the world in 1996, Shelton student Meggan Madison was recently featured in a very sizeable front-page sports story in the *Tuscaloosa News*.

Wielding a bow and arrow since she was 15, Madison has competed all over the country, from Florida to Illinois.

Last year she won the Alabama State championship for all women for the second time in a row. She was ranked at 14 in amateur archery in the world despite missing 10 weeks because of illness.

"The State Championship is really exciting, there are 15-30 adult women there to compete with," Madison told the *Courier* in a recent follow-up conversation.

Madison was introduced to the sport by her uncle Mike Kynard of Marion who is himself

Tuscaloosa's Park and Recreation Authority (PARA) and that takes up a lot of his time as well. He is on the committee that is responsible for all the new construction and planning, and the group meets often. "I enjoy my involvement in politics. I guess I just think people need to be involved and make a difference, so that's why I'm involved."

When Pugh was asked about his plans—and if he would ever fully retire, he said, "I'll still come in here. I still look at investments, business deals to get involved with. That's still part of my coming in here: to consider different things. Buy a little here; sell a little there. We've got a shopping center that we are considering selling now, and if we sell that then we might buy something else. There are different business opportunities out there that I look at. That is what keeps your mind working—staying involved, so I don't ever want to not be involved in anything."

When Roland Pugh, one of the college's most successful and generous alumni, is asked what advice he would make to young people who are about to graduate from high school or college, he doesn't hesitate. "Just work hard and be patient and try to make something happen. Keep on keeping on. If you work hard enough and long enough, it usually works out."

a professional archer.

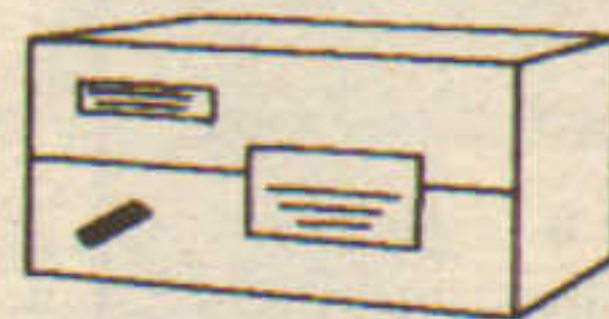
Kynard said that Madison took to the sport immediately and was competing against as many as 55 boys in tournaments early on.

Madison hopes to turn professional in the future, noting that a top pro can make \$5,000 to \$10,000 on a weekend of competition.

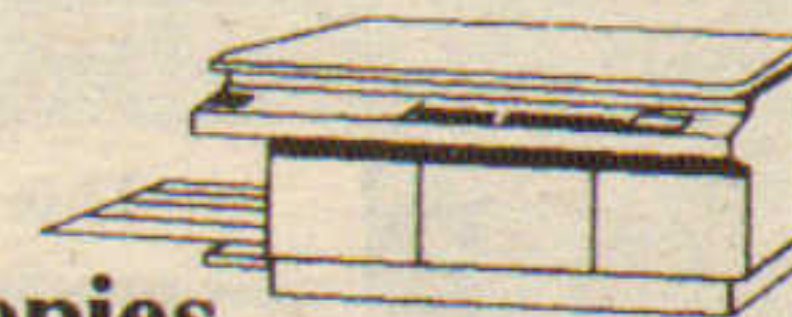
She is also preparing to be a math teacher at Shelton State, and still finds time to work at Townsend Ford.

Besides the fame and fun of competition, Madison likes the family adventures her travels have provided her. "My mother and grandma are at each tournament," quoted *News* writer David Cooper. "They are the greatest support in the world, and my uncle is the greatest coach."

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Summer cont'd from pg. 3

brief training period.

How did the job pan out? We haven't heard, but if you or anyone you know is one of the 30,000, please let us know.

Although the summer is a time when most students traditionally have

taken time off or gone back home for a few months of rest, today's students split their time between having some fun, taking a couple of classes and hopefully, doing a little work they enjoy.

How do you get a summer job? Sted Murray's experience with Bruno's seems typical. "Ummmm. I just went over there and applied," he explained.

Roberts reviews...



By Brian Roberts

The X-Files

The X-Files is the first film in a potential franchise, a la the *Star Trek* and *James Bond* films. The film is an extension of the phenomenally popular Fox television show, set to begin its sixth season this fall. The movie stars the series' veterans David Duchovny (Agent Fox Mulder) and Gillian Anderson (Agent Dana Scully).

The film plays like an extended episode of the series, which is, oddly enough, both the chief strength and weakness of the film. It is a weakness in that it does not have the scope and melodramatic intensity audiences have come to expect from big-budget summer blockbusters. It's a strength in that the film does not betray the source material set forth by creator Chris Carter.

The series has always been more about plots than about the special effects used in the shows. That continues in the film, where the special effects exist in order to serve the plot, rather than vice-versa. The plot in this film is so dense that it is impossible to reduce it to a sentence or two. It is sufficient merely to say that the film begins with a terrorist bombing that leads Mulder and Scully to new evidence of the cover-up of the existence of extraterrestrial life. So, much like the television series, the film is about the search for truth.

If the density of the plot is not enough for you, the acting is delightful. Duchovny and Anderson bring an incredible deal of chemistry to the big screen, the same chemistry that has earned them awards on the small screen. Oscar winner Martin Landau (*Ed Wood*) and Oscar nominee Armin Mueller-Stahl (*Shine*) team with series veterans John Neville and Terry O'Quinn to bring the movie to life.

The film is crisply directed by Rob Bowman, who has been responsible for directing almost two dozen of the series' most memorable episodes. His work on the show has given him an understanding of the themes that Carter wants driven into the plots. Their working relationship, along with the wonderful music score of Mark Snow, who scores every episode of the series, allows the movie to have the same intensity and togetherness as the television show.

Carter produced and wrote the film, and did so with the intention of making the movie understandable for people who have never seen the show. So regardless of whether or not you are a fan of the show, if you are interested in seeing a film that has a brain, check out *The X-Files*.

Shows daily at the Bama 6 at 12:30 p.m., 1:15 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:15 p.m., and 9:45 p.m. Rated PG-13 for language and violence. 126 minutes.

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BULLETIN BOARD

By Kimberly Davis

This summer Shelton State will initiate a new program for freshman students designed to help them become better acquainted with the college.

Entitled "STAR (Student Test-interpretation, advising and registration) Days," these day-long sessions are scheduled on selected Thursdays throughout the summer. This will give the students a chance to meet the faculty and other students during the registration process.

"We want to make the registration process a positive experience," said Humphrey Lee, Dean of Students. "STAR Days are strictly for first-time freshmen students. We want to offer them in-depth advising and counseling. However, as a part of each session, we've included some fun activities such as a scavenger hunt and skits."

Only freshmen who have taken the ASSET test are eligible for Star Days. Students will be assigned to a date based on when they have taken the ASSET.

The pre-college division of the dance department at Shelton will be offering classes for children ages four and one-half years and older this fall. For more information concerning ballet classes or to register call 345-4962.

Rick Shelton, director of recruitment for Shelton State, has been named the 1998 recipient of the Advancement of Literacy Award.

Shelton will receive the award June 29 at the Gulf Coast Conference held at Point Clear. To receive this honor, recipients must be a current resident of Alabama, or have strong Alabama connections, have significant publications and be of some national prominence. The work of the author must have in some way contributed to the literacy of the children in Alabama.

Shelton's first book *Hoggle's Christmas* was published in 1993. In addition to his college work, he has visited over 350 classrooms giving presentations and workshops on writing. He has also developed Alabama Direct Assessment of writing, Grades 5 and 7 training module, for summer workshops at the Alabama Department of Education during the summer of 1995.

June 10-13 some attentive theater-goers received a big treat when they dropped in on a performance of *Nobody Here But us Chickens* in Theatre Tuscaloosa's Second Stage venue in the rehearsal hall on campus. A series of three wildly comic one-act productions by Brit Peter Barnes, they were expertly directed by Tina Fitch and John King.

Sodexho "Interactive Newspaper" Corner

Thank God guns don't kill people

In all the recent tragedy and hullabaloo over the killings of high school classmates by their friends with rifles, one thing has consistently horrified and fascinated: the notion that we sure shouldn't blame the guns themselves for any of this.

You know the refrain: guns don't kill people; people kill people. In this case, of course, it's teenagers to be exact. But, anyway, I'm sure you know and many of you agree with the argument.

All we can say, is THANK GOD guns have not yet started killing people! Can you imagine the carnage when that happens?

These murders and the thousands of others which take place across the nation each-year would have been accomplished without firearms—so the argument goes.

We need stricter punishments.

Nay, we need *more* guns! We need to arm and protect ourselves at all costs! So the arguments go. After all, when you outlaw guns, then only outlaws will have guns.

And, of course, anyone who calls for any kind of control, lessening, call-back... anything to do with resisting the total armament of the United States well, that person is trying to take away more than just your second amendment rights. Yes, that person is trying to take away all

of your rights. Heck, that person is trying to kill you. Maybe you should just shoot 'em, eh?

If you restrict the sale of guns in any way you are only leading up to the confiscation of all weapons down the line.

If you ban assault weapons you do so only because you want to take away everyone's hunting rifle.

If you insist upon measures that will make handguns child-proof, you do so only because you have a fetish for interfering in every activity of each citizen.

The National Rifle Association is not the gun lobby one man argued with a look of stark malevolence in his eye.

Of course we all know that looks can't kill. If they could, then we would all be in much more trouble. Not as much trouble as when guns finally achieve the ability to kill people, but some real trouble nevertheless.

No, thank God, guns don't kill people yet. For if they ever do we are all in for some scary times.

Heck, with so many guns around, if guns ever start killing people we might all get shot one day.

Maybe you should work on your quick draw. Just in case those guns ever get the least bit dangerous.

—Tita Shell

Presented by the Sodexho Food Court off the Atrium in Shelton State Community College. Congratulations to Tita Shell whose work was selected for the Sodexo Interactive Newspaper Feature.

Do you have a response?

The article selected each issue will win its author a free lunch at the Sodexho Food Court on campus

For a run-down of the day's menu, call the menu hotline at 391-2336

Off-campus submissions are welcome

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